

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L15: Entry 1 of 3

File: USPT

Aug 27, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6442602 B1

TITLE: System and method for dynamic creation and management of virtual subdomain addresses

Abstract Text (1):

An Internet domain name server platform which intercepts web browser HTTP queries to unrecognized, unregistered subdomain name and provides redirection of the query to a recognized and registered domain name or a subdirectory of a recognized and registered domain name. A server script is launched in response to the event of the request to an unrecognized subdomain name, which dynamically resolves the unknown address rather than returning a standard "Error 404: File Not Found" message to the requesting web browser. The script accesses a database of virtual subdomain names which are mapped in the database to actual subdirectories on the same or a remote server. For example, if a query to http://www.virtualsubdomain.domain.com is received, and virtualsubdomain.domain.com is not recognized as a registered domain name by the standard DNS server, the script will resolve it and map it to http://www.domain.com/subdomain, or any other file on a web server which is actually registered. Using this method, the creation of a virtual subdomain requires only the steps necessary to create a subdirectory. This enables it to be performed rapidly if handled manually, or it can be created automatically by any network client with privileges to create subdirectories on the web server in question.

Detailed Description Text (10):

The script on the virtual subdomain server (54) then parses the requested URL for the domain and subdomain names, in the example the domain name is "domain" and the virtual subdomain name is "sub". The virtual domain name server then queries a database (55) for a mapping to a subdirectory for the virtual subdomain. If there is a matching entry, such as "/sub", the request is redirected (56) by the script to a subdirectory on the registered domain server (52) by concatenating the domain name and the subdirectory name, such as "http://www.domain.com/sub". If no mapping record is found, the script simply redirects (57) the request to the valid registered domain server address, such as "http://www.domain.com". In either case, the user does not receive the typical "Error 404: File not found" response which is a common problem in the current technology. Also, the destination web server and subdirectory may be local to the special virtual subdomain server, or remote, thereby allowing virtual subdomains to be hosted anywhere on the Internet by any web server.

WEST**End of Result Set**

Generate Collection

Print

L14: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Sep 26, 2000

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6125395 A

TITLE: Method for identifying collections of internet web sites with domain names

Detailed Description Text (9):

The topics and contents of the collections of web sites are pre-determined by the registered owner of the second level domain names. The owner of a series of web sites with the same bookends, for example, bracketed by reflective characters such as the letter "p" and the letter "q," i.e., p.sub.-- q.com, can establish a variety of well researched and value added content for many diverse topics. Consequently, the method provides a means for expanding the number of names that can be intuitively researched, with extra value for the Internet user, while making the site more attractive to persons offering products or services in the United States or to advertisers, thereby benefitting the owner of the site by providing a reasonable return on its investment in enhancing the site. The web sites identified in the collections will all be relevant to the selected topic. If the topic is "travel," for example, the web site may contain airline web sites which sell tickets via Internet, resort and hotel web sites offering vacation and room bookings, and rental car web sites offering Internet reservations. The collection will not contain random individuals' in-depth diaries of their trips to Timbuktu or Siberia or unrelated web sites which use "travel" as a metatag or search string keyword used by search engines as a method of redirecting web users, since the content of the internal site will be selected to be consistent with information being sought by the user.

WEST Search History

DATE: Monday, September 29, 2003

<u>Set Name</u>	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit Count</u>	<u>Set Name</u>
side by side			result set
<i>DB=PGPB; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L13	20010021947[pn]	1	L13
L12	((quer\$ or search\$) near2 engine) same ((domain name) near6 (register\$ or registration))	18	L12
<i>DB=EPAB,DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L11	((quer\$ or search\$) near2 engine) same ((domain name) near6 (register\$ or registration))	3	L11
<i>DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L10	((quer\$ or search\$) near2 engine) same ((domain name) near6 (register\$ or registration))	9	L10
<i>DB=USPT,EPAB,DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L9	((quer\$ or search\$) near2 engine) same ((domain name) near6 (register\$ or registration))	12	L9
<i>DB=EPAB,DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L8	9909726[pn]	3	L8
<i>DB=DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L7	09909726[pn]	0	L7
L6	9989726[pn]	0	L6
<i>DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>			
L5	5987464[pn]	1	L5
L4	(search\$ or quer\$) same ((domain name) or url or hyperlink\$ or (hyper link\$)) same (registration\$ or register\$) same (availab\$ or unavailab\$) same (resolv\$ or resolution\$)	3	L4
L3	6338082[uref]	4	L3
L2	(search\$ or quer\$) same ((domain name) or url or hyperlink\$ or (hyper link\$)) same (registration\$ or availab\$ or unavailab\$) same (resolv\$ or resolution\$)	26	L2
L1	search\$ near12 (domain name) near12 registration\$	9	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L12: Entry 13 of 18

File: PGPB

May 30, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020065903 A1

TITLE: Internet domain name registration system

CLAIMS:

7. In a computer system that implements a domain name registration search engine, a method of checking the availability of and registering multiple names as domain names, the method comprising: displaying an interface allowing a user to specify within a single view multiple names to be queried for availability; receiving a search query of names from the user, the search query comprising multiple names entered by the user into the single view; querying a database to determine registration availability of each of the multiple names in combination with each of multiple Top Level Domain (TLD) extensions; and displaying a table showing the availability of each name in conjunction with each TLD extension, wherein the table is displayed in conjunction with a selection mechanism for allowing the user to select one or more available domain names for registration.

12. A search engine system for allowing a user to query a database to determine the availability of multiple names for domain name registration, the search engine system comprising: a web page adapted for user entry and submission of a set of names to be checked for domain name registration availability, wherein the web page allows the user to enter and submit multiple names at a time; and a query server which is responsive to submission from the web page of a set of multiple names by at least (a) determining registration availability of each of the names in combination with each of multiple Top Level Domain (TLD) extensions, and (b) generating a results table indicating, for each combination of a name and a TLD extension, whether the combination is available for registration.

15. The search engine system as in claim 11, wherein the results table includes means for selecting one or more available domain names for registration.

L12: Entry 13 of 18

File: PGPB

May 30, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020065903 A1

TITLE: Internet domain name registration system

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L12: Entry 4 of 18

File: PGPB

Jan 9, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20030009592 A1

TITLE: Method and system for providing static addresses for Internet connected devices even if the underlying address is dynamic

Detail Description Paragraph (6):

[0023] A method and system for mapping an unregistered domain name to an address is also provided. In one embodiment, the mapping system, which may execute on a domain name server, receives a domain name from a client computer. The mapping system determines whether the domain name is registered (i.e., has an associated address). If the domain name is not registered, then the mapping system directs a search engine that may use natural language processing techniques (e.g., meaning-based analysis) or other search engine to perform a search based on the received domain name. For example, if the domain name is "acme.com," then the search may be for web pages with the term "acme" or for web sites that are stores that sell products similar to those sold by "acme.com." The mapping system then provides the client computer with an address of a site for displaying the search results along with an indication that the domain name is not registered or otherwise does not have an associated address. If the search results contain links to web pages related to "acme," then the user of the client computer may only need to select one of the links to get to the web page of interest. The mapping system is particularly useful in situations where a user misspells a domain name (e.g., "homegrocery.com" rather than "homegrocer.com"). The search results may likely include a link to the intended web site. In an alternative embodiment, the mapping system may be implemented as part of a browser or a plug-in for a browser. In such embodiment, the mapping system would identify when the DNS returns an indication that a domain name is unregistered. The mapping system then automatically sends a search request based on the domain name to a search engine and displays the search results web page to the user. Alternatively, the mapping system could display any resulting page such as a page with advertisements selected based on the domain name.

Detail Description Paragraph (19):

[0036] FIGS. 10-12 are diagrams illustrating the mapping system in one embodiment. FIG. 10 is a block diagram of an example information flow of the mapping system in one embodiment. The diagram illustrates a client computer 1001, a local domain name server 1002, the top-level domain name server 1003, and a search engine 1004. In this example, the client computer requests access

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L11: Entry 2 of 3

File: DWPI

Jun 5, 2000

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2001-133064
DERWENT-WEEK: 200173
COPYRIGHT 2003 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: Method for domain searching in Internet, which searches for domain names of related site in registering a domain name or searching for information and indicates, searched domain names in alphabetic or numeric order

INVENTOR: KIM, S G; KIM, S K

PATENT-ASSIGNEE:

ASSIGNEE	CODE
KIM S G	KIMSI
KIM S K	KIMSI

PRIORITY-DATA: 2000KR-0011516 (March 8, 2000)

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
KR 2000030601 A	June 5, 2000		000	G06F017/30
US 20010021947 A1	September 13, 2001		009	G06F015/16

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
KR2000030601A	March 8, 2000	2000KR-0011516	
<u>US20010021947A1</u>	March 7, 2001	2001US-0800898	

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 15/16; G06 F 15/173; G06 F 17/30

RELATED-ACC-NO: 2001-155967

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: KR2000030601A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

NOVELTY - The method involves building a search service site and leading an administrator of many other sites to register a certain domain name (S11). A search is requested by entering the domain name as a key word in a domain search engine after an Internet user is connected to the search service site. Register domain names are verified (S12) and all related domain names are displayed in alphabetic or numeric order including the domain having the key

word search (S13).

USE - Method for domain searching in Internet.

ADVANTAGE - The search method allows users to search simply.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING(S) - The drawing shows a flow chart of the registration procedure.

Register domain name S11

Verify domain name S12

Display search results S13

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO:

US20010021947A

EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

NOVELTY - The method involves building a search service site and leading an administrator of many other sites to register a certain domain name (S11). A search is requested by entering the domain name as a key word in a domain search engine after an Internet user is connected to the search service site. Register domain names are verified (S12) and all related domain names are displayed in alphabetic or numeric order including the domain having the key word search (S13).

USE - Method for domain searching in Internet.

ADVANTAGE - The search method allows users to search simply.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING(S) - The drawing shows a flow chart of the registration procedure.

Register domain name S11

Verify domain name S12

Display search results S13

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/9 Dwg.1/9

TITLE-TERMS: METHOD DOMAIN SEARCH SEARCH DOMAIN NAME RELATED SITE
REGISTER DOMAIN NAME SEARCH INFORMATION INDICATE SEARCH DOMAIN NAME
ALPHABET NUMERIC ORDER

DERWENT-CLASS: T01

EPI-CODES: T01-H07C5E; T01-J05B1; T01-J05B3;

SECONDARY-ACC-NO:

Non-CPI Secondary Accession Numbers: N2001-460076

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L11: Entry 1 of 3

File: DWPI

Aug 4, 2001

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2002-073524
DERWENT-WEEK: 200210
COPYRIGHT 2003 DERWENT INFORMATION LTD

TITLE: System and method for searching domain using meta search engine

INVENTOR: JO, H S; LEE, Y W

PATENT-ASSIGNEE:

ASSIGNEE	CODE
JO H S	JOHSI
LEE Y W	LEEYI

PRIORITY-DATA: 2000KR-0062909 (October 25, 2000)

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
KR 2001073984 A	August 4, 2001		001	G06F017/30

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
KR2001073984A	October 25, 2000	2000KR-0062909	

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/30

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: KR2001073984A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

NOVELTY - A system and a method for searching a domain using a meta search engine are provided for a user to certify a registration or not of the corresponding domain rapidly by receiving a user's domain search word and outputting an initial image list promptly and outputting the result of the portion corresponded to the registration of a domain successively in accordance with a searching progress using a real time graphic processing technique.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION - A domain name to be identified by a user is inputted(S100). An initial image list corresponding to the inputted domain name is outputted(S200). An image tag requesting of the initial image list is transmitted to a domain meta search engine(S300). A registration or not of the domain name corresponded to the transmitted image tag is searched(S400). An image adapted to

the registration or not of the searched domain name is created and
outputted(S500).

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/10

TITLE-TERMS: SYSTEM METHOD SEARCH DOMAIN META SEARCH ENGINE

DERWENT-CLASS: T01

EPI-CODES: T01-J05B;

WEST Search History

DATE: Monday, September 29, 2003

<u>Set Name</u> side by side	<u>Query</u>	<u>Hit Count</u>	<u>Set Name</u> result set
	<i>DB=EPAB,DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>		
L11	((quer\$ or search\$) near2 engine) same ((domain name) near6 (register\$ or registration))	3	L11
	<i>DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>		
L10	((quer\$ or search\$) near2 engine) same ((domain name) near6 (register\$ or registration))	9	L10
	<i>DB=USPT,EPAB,DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>		
L9	((quer\$ or search\$) near2 engine) same ((domain name) near6 (register\$ or registration))	12	L9
	<i>DB=EPAB,DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>		
L8	9909726[pn]	3	L8
	<i>DB=DWPI; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>		
L7	09909726[pn]	0	L7
L6	9989726[pn]	0	L6
	<i>DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>		
L5	5987464[pn]	1	L5
L4	(search\$ or quer\$) same ((domain name) or url or hyperlink\$ or (hyper link\$)) same (registration\$ or register\$) same (availab\$ or unavailab\$) same (resolv\$ or resolution\$)	3	L4
L3	6338082[uref]	4	L3
L2	(search\$ or quer\$) same ((domain name) or url or hyperlink\$ or (hyper link\$)) same (registration\$ or availab\$ or unavailab\$) same (resolv\$ or resolution\$)	26	L2
L1	search\$ near12 (domain name) near12 registration\$	9	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L10: Entry 6 of 9

File: USPT

Oct 31, 2000

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6141653 A

** See image for Certificate of Correction **

TITLE: System for interactive, multivariate negotiations over a network

Detailed Description Text (17):

The sponsor processes of FIG. 1g include maintaining databases, registering community and seller domain names, and submitting Web uniform resource locators (URLs) to multiple search engines so that both the community Website and each seller Website within it can be found by search engines such as Compaq's ALTAVISTA.TM. among others. Sponsor 06 also monitors activity, collects fees, establishes standards or rules (or both) for the community, and promotes successes. Once a deal is concluded it is archived 68, by multivariate negotiations engine 212 on behalf of seller. The present invention also allows the collection and analysis of direct e-mail demographic information, such as company name, title and location. This data helps the present invention screen out frivolous or fraudulent inquirers. For example, a high school student attempting to propose an order might be intercepted when the present invention determines that no company name or title has been provided and no other authorization for such a request has been provided for.

Detailed Description Text (74):

Returning to FIG. 1j, another principal sponsor function is promoting visibility 213-04. In this capacity, a sponsor 06 may submit its own Website and URL's to a number of Internet search engines and submit each selling participants' Websites and URL's to such search engines as soon as the seller is registered and has created a Website. A typical sponsor's promote visibility functions 213-04 formats the URL's and domain names (as provided by the system registration forms which are automatically integrated into the system) into the META Tags and Meta Keywords or similar formats and submission schedules most likely to speed up registration with the search engines. For example, the ALTAVISTA.TM. search engine Web site states that:

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L10: Entry 3 of 9

File: USPT

Jan 8, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6338050 B1

TITLE: System and method for providing and updating user supplied context for a negotiations system

Detailed Description Text (16):

The sponsor processes of FIG. 1g include maintaining databases, registering community and seller domain names, and submitting Web uniform resource locators (URLs) to multiple search engines so that both the community Website and each seller Website within it can be found by search engines such as Compaq's ALTAVISTA.TM. among others. Sponsor 06 also monitors activity, collects fees, establishes standards or rules (or both) for the community, and promotes successes. Once a deal is concluded it is archived 68, by multivariate negotiations engine 212 on behalf of seller. The present invention also allows the collection and analysis of direct e-mail demographic information, such as company name, title and location. This data helps the present invention screen out frivolous or fraudulent inquirers. For example, a high school student attempting to propose an order might be intercepted when the present invention determines that no company name or title has been provided and no other authorization for such a request has been provided for.

Detailed Description Text (71):

Returning to FIG. 1j, another principal sponsor function is promoting visibility 213-04. In this capacity, a sponsor 06 may submit its own Website and URL's to a number of Internet search engines and submit each selling participants' Websites and URL's to such search engines as soon as the seller is registered and has created a Website. A typical sponsor's promote visibility functions 213-04 formats the URL's and domain names (as provided by the system registration forms which are automatically integrated into the system) into the META Tags and Meta Keywords or similar formats and submission schedules most likely to speed up registration with the search engines. For example, the ALTAVISTA.TM. search engine Web site states that:

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L10: Entry 2 of 9

File: USPT

May 6, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6560634 B1

TITLE: Method of determining unavailability of an internet domain name

Drawing Description Text (6):

FIG. 4 depicts a flow chart of the steps performed by the query engine of FIG. 1 when searching for registered domain names in accordance with methods and systems consistent with the present invention;

Detailed Description Text (18):

Query server 104 ultimately receives the response from DNS server 108 (step 420) and keeps a record of all responses from the DNS servers 108 until all responses have been received. If a response indicates that the domain-name database contains a DNS record associated with the domain name, query engine 222 flags that response signifying that the domain name has indeed been registered in the specified domain for further inquiry. This response is referred to as an "unavailability response." The unavailability response provides the user, with at least some indication (although not necessarily a conclusive one) that the domain name might not be available to be adopted in the domain in question.

Detailed Description Text (19):

Once all of the DNS servers 108 have responded with information about domain-name unavailability, query engine 222 performs a subsequent query for all registered domain names that support a Whois query (step 424). Using Whois, query software 226 can also learn additional information about a domain name. Query engine 222 invokes query software 226 to perform a Whois query in the domains that returned an unavailable response for a particular domain name. Domain file 232 contains a listing of domains supporting the Whois queries, since not all domains support Whois functionality.

Detailed Description Text (24):

Methods and systems consistent with the present invention search for registered domain names in a plurality of domains by transmitting a request to search a domain-name database to selected domains. One of the advantages to searching domains in this manner is that the query server can send search requests to many top-level Domain Name Servers (e.g., uk, .fr, .de, and so on) so that the searches can be performed quickly and, from the user's perspective, essentially simultaneously. This searching capability is available to any Web enabled client browser, UNIX or many other operating systems. For example, a domain name search may be

implemented by a command line instruction. Methods consistent with the present invention also work well with multi-processor machines. On a multi-processor machine, a search may show up on more than one processor thread. Finally, systems consistent with the present invention can work well with domain name search engines written in C++, Perl, C or even Java programming languages.

WEST Search History

DATE: Monday, September 29, 2003

Set Name Query
side by side

Hit Count Set Name
result set

DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ

L4	(search\$ or quer\$) same ((domain name) or url or hyperlink\$ or (hyper link\$)) same (registration\$ or register\$) same (availab\$ or unavailab\$) same (resolv\$ or resolution\$)	3	L4
L3	6338082[uref]	4	L3
L2	(search\$ or quer\$) same ((domain name) or url or hyperlink\$ or (hyper link\$)) same (registration\$ or availab\$ or unavailab\$) same (resolv\$ or resolution\$)	26	L2
L1	search\$ near12 (domain name) near12 registration\$	9	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L1: Entry 2 of 9

File: USPT

May 6, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6560634 B1

TITLE: Method of determining unavailability of an internet domain name

CLAIMS:

1. A method in a data processing system with DNS servers, each responsible for maintaining registration records of domain names for an associated domain, comprising: receiving user input containing a domain name, a plurality of domains and at least one search criterion corresponding to the plurality of domains; transmitting a request for a search of the domain name to each of the DNS servers associated with the plurality of domains; receiving search results from each of the DNS servers associated with the plurality of domains indicating, for each of the specified domains, whether a domain name record exists for the domain name in the specified domain; and displaying the search results.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the program contains a registration component configured to: examine the search results to determine whether a domain name record exists for each of the specified domains, and configured to perform a query on each DNS server to obtain registration information for the domain name when the domain name record exists.

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L4: Entry 1 of 3

File: USPT

Aug 27, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6442549 B1

** See image for Certificate of Correction **

TITLE: Method, product, and apparatus for processing reusable information

Brief Summary Text (29):

Domain name registration for a given NIC authority can be accessed by a TCP/IP application called WHOIS, which queries a NIC database to find the registration date, the name of network and system administrators, system and network points-of-contact, and other individuals who are registered in appropriate databases. Domain names are identifiers used for both accessing a resource and retrieving contact information of the registrant or domain name holder of that resource. The availability of a domain name from a NIC authority for a given TLD is determined by submitting a WHOIS request. If there are no matches in the database then the domain name is available for registration. Because the WHOIS database is centralized rather than distributed, the DNS supports only resolution services rather than directory or registration services. Resource location is determined by resolving a query in the DNS and domain name availability is determined by using a WHOIS service to query an appropriate NIC database.

Brief Summary Text (31):

It is apparent from these news articles that there is an ongoing struggle for control and ownership of the WHOIS database. Tactics have been used to suppress the domain name registration date from the results of a WHOIS query or control the distribution of the TLD zone files, which is critically relied on by all devices connected to the Internet for the purpose of name resolution. Certainly, at a minimum the domain name and registration date, is not "customer data" and is considered fact that the public should have access to. These measures are an attempt to inhibit the public from re-registering domain names that are newly available and fall back into the public domain.

WEST

Generate Collection

Print

L4: Entry 2 of 3

File: USPT

Jan 8, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6338082 B1

TITLE: Method, product, and apparatus for requesting a network resource

Abstract Text (1):

When a network resource request having a domain name is received, it is determined whether the network resource can be located including determining whether the domain name is resolvable. Rather than displaying an error message or processing a search request in response to determining that a network resource can not be located or of an unresolvable domain name, the domain name can instead be redirected to a registration service where the unresolvable domain name is automatically used to perform a registration request and determine domain name availability. When the domain name is not available for registration, domain name registrant information is provided. However, when the domain name is determined available, a registration form is provided. For example, such a domain name in question may be redirected from the autosearch feature of a web browser to a service, which determines that the domain name is available for registration enabling a potential registrant to register the available domain name by selecting a domain name registration provider from a list of domain name registration providers.

Brief Summary Text (21):

Domain name registration for a given NIC authority can be accessed by a TCP/IP application called WHOIS, which queries a NIC database to find the name of network and system administrators, system and network points-of-contact, and other individuals who are registered in appropriate databases. Domain names are identifiers used for both accessing a resource and retrieving contact information of the registrant or domain name holder of that resource. The availability of a domain name from a NIC authority for a given TLD is usually determined by submitting a WHOIS request. If there are no matches in the database then the domain name may be available for registration. Regional WHOIS registries are maintained by NSI and ARIN (American Registry for Internet Numbers) located in the U.S., APNIC (Asia-Pacific Network Information Center) located in Australia, and RIPE NCC located in the Netherlands. Resource location may be determined by resolving a query in the DNS whereas domain name availability may be determined by using a WHOIS service to query an appropriate NIC database.

Brief Summary Text (31):

The present invention enables the seamless integration between name